February 2, 2005

The Honorable George Miller United States House of Representatives 2205 Rayburn Building Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

I am writing to advise you of my support for TEA-21 authorization and a budget appropriation for the <u>Brentwood-Tracy Expressway (State Route 239)</u>, a critical project for mobility and economic development in eastern Contra Costa County.

The <u>Brentwood-Tracy Expressway (State Route 239)</u> requires federal funding assistance to move forward with the necessary planning, engineering and route adoption for this long-sought highway that will link Contra Costa County with the Central Valley. The route has been officially designated as an Inter-regional Route in the state highway network, but the necessary planning, analysis and route adoption haven't been performed due to a lack of funding.

The development of this highway help will stimulate job development in eastern Contra Costa County, where rapid residential growth hasn't yet been matched by any significant job growth. The highway also will reduce congestion and provide a much needed truck route between two important regions of the state. Currently the only two roads that link eastern Contra Costa County and San Joaquin County are two-lane rural roads that are overburdened with automobile and truck traffic, causing congestion as well as operational and safety problems.

Please help obtain a \$15 million authorization in TEA-21, and a \$5 million appropriation in the next federal budget for this vital project.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your efforts to improve the quality of life in eastern Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

MARY N. PIEPHO County Supervisor, District III

Cc: Members, Board of Supervisors Sara Hoffman, County Administrator